IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of John Gerard Speare et al.   Art Unit 2191
Serial No. 10/806,779
Filed March 23, 2004
Confirmation No. 2381
For   METHOD FOR UPDATING DATA IN ACCORDANCE WITH RIGHTS
       MANAGEMENT POLICY
Examiner Ted T. Vo

APPEAL BRIEF

Tan-Chi Yuan, Limited Recognition No. L0113
SENNIGER POWERS, LLP
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

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APPEAL BRIEF

This is an appeal from the final rejection of the claims of the above-referenced application made in the Final Office action dated **May 11, 2007.** A Notice of Appeal was filed on **August 28, 2007.**

The appeal brief fee in the amount of $500.00 is submitted herewith.

I.   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in connection with the present appeal is Microsoft Corporation of One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington, 98052, a corporation of the state of Washington, owner of 100 percent interest in the pending application.

II.   RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is unaware of any pending appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings that may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on, the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-27, as set forth in the Claims Appendix, are currently pending in the application for consideration.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected. The rejection of each of these claims is being appealed.

IV.   **STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

Amendment F was filed on July 11, 2007 responding to the Final Office action dated May 11, 2007. Amendment F was not entered because the Examiner did not deem the amendments place the application in better form. Therefore, the current status of the claims reflect the listing of claims as amended in Amendment E.

V.   **SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**

The following summary correlates claim elements to embodiments described in the application specification, but does not in any manner limit claim interpretation. Rather, the following summary is provided only to facilitate the Board's understanding of the subject matter of this appeal.

Aspects of the invention allow an administrator to associate a rights management policy with certain senders and/or recipients of messages to dynamically apply the rights management policy to a message. See Application, paragraph [0006]. In addition, aspects of the invention allow an administrator to automatically update a rights management protected message and/or a rights management protected document attached to that message as it passes through a message transfer agent. Id. at [0009]. In one embodiment, the administrator may determine either on a regular interval or an ad-hoc basis that the message transfer agent scans the messages stored to determine whether or not the content has expired. Id. If the content has indeed expired, the administrator may take steps to have the expired content deleted entirely, refreshed with more current content, or replaced with a tombstone indicating that the original content has expired. Id.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a computerized method for updating content in an electronic document. See Application, paragraph [0026]. The computerized method includes accepting the electronic document (700). Id.; FIGS. 6-7. One or more rights management protections (200), as defined by a persisted policy scheme and associated with content of the electronic document, are identified (702). Id. at [0026], [0040], FIGS. 2A and 2B. The accepted electronic document is pre-licensed by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user (704). Id. at [0041], FIG. 7. The use license is also defined by the persisted policy scheme and associated with the content of the electronic document. Id. It is determined whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted

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policy scheme (708). Id. at [0043]. If the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, a portion of the content of the electronic document is replaced with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified (710). Id. The use of the modified content of the electronic document is permitted in accordance with the obtained use license (712). Id.

In another embodiment, independent claim 5 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method of updating content in an electronic document. See Application, paragraphs [0021], [0026]. The updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. Id. at [0026]. The electronic document is accepted and one or more rights management protections (200) associated with content of the electronic document are identified (700). Id. at [0026], [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7. The rights management protections are defined by the persisted policy scheme (702). Id. at [0026], FIGS. 2A and 2B. The accepted electronic document is pre-licensed by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user (704). Id. at [0041], FIG. 7. The use license is defined by the persisted policy scheme and is associated with the content of the electronic document. Id. It is determined whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme (708). Id. at [0043]. If the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, a portion of the content of the electronic document is replaced with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified (710). Id. The use of the modified content of the electronic document is permitted in accordance with the obtained use license (712). Id.

In a further embodiment, claim 6 is directed to a computerized method for updating content in an electronic document and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application, paragraph [0026]. The electronic document is accepted and one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document are identified (700). Id. at [0026], [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7. The rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme (702). Id. at [0041], FIG. 7. The accepted electronic document is pre-licensed by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user (704). Id. The use license is defined by the persisted policy scheme and is associated with the content of the electronic document. Id. It is determined whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy

scheme (708). Id. at [0043]. If the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, the content of the electronic document is deleted such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license. Id. at [0044].

Claim 10 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document. See Application, paragraphs [0021], [0026]. The updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme (200). Id. at [0026]. The method includes accepting the electronic document (700). One or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document are identified (702). Id. at [0026], [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7. The rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme (702). Id. at [0041], FIG. 7. The accepted electronic document is pre-licensed by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user (704). Id. The use license is defined by the persisted policy scheme and is associated with the content of the electronic document. Id. It is determined whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme (708). Id. at [0043]. If the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, the content of the electronic document is deleted such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license. Id. at [0044].

Claim 11 is directed to a computerized method for updating content in an electronic document. See Application, paragraph [0026]. The computerized method includes accepting the electronic document and identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document (700) and (702). Id. at [0026], [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7. The rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme (702). Id. at [0041], FIG. 7. The accepted electronic document is pre-licensed by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user (704). Id. The use license is defined by the persisted policy scheme and is associated with the content of the electronic document. Id. It is determined whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded an expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme (708). Id. at [0043]. If the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, a portion of the content of the electronic document is replaced with a refreshed copy

of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license (600). Id. at [0044].

Claim 15 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application, paragraphs [0021], [0026]. The method comprises accepting the electronic document and identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the accepted electronic document (700) and (702). Id. at [0026], [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7. The rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme (702). Id. at [0041], FIG. 7. The accepted electronic document is pre-licensed by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, the use license is defined by the persisted policy scheme, and the use license grants access to the content of the electronic document by the user (704). Id. It is determined whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections (708). Id. at [0043]. If the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, a portion of the content of the electronic document is updated with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license (600). Id. at [0044].

Claim 16 is directed to a computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application, paragraphs [0021], [0026]. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof and the rights management protections are defined by the persisted policy scheme. Id. at [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7. The computerized method comprises configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith to pre-license the content of electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user (702) and (704). Id. at [0040], [0041]). Moreover, the updating process is configured to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of

the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user (708) and (710). Id. at [0043].

Claim 19 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application, paragraphs [0021] and [0026]. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof and the rights management protections are defined by the persisted policy scheme. Id. at [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7. The method comprises configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user (702) and (704). Id. at [0040], [0041]. The updating process is also configured to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user (708) and (710). Id. at [0043].

Claim 20 is directed to a computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application, paragraphs [0021] and [0026]. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. Id. at [0040], [0043], FIGS. 6 and 7. The computerized method comprises configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user (702) and (704). Id. at [0040], [0041]. Moreover, the updating process is configured to delete the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document (708). Id. at [0044].

Claim 23 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application, paragraphs [0021] and [0026]. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. Id. at [0043]. The method comprises configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user (702) and (704). Id. at [0041], [0043]. As configured, the updating process deletes the content of the electronic document data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document (708). Id. at [0044].

Claim 24 is directed to a computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application, paragraphs [0021] and [0026]. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof. Id. at [0040], FIGS. 6 and 7). Also, the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. Id. at [0043]. The computerized method comprises configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document (702) and (704). Id. at [0041], [0043]. The updating process is also configured to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license (708) and (600). Id. at [0044].

Claim 27 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, and the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. See Application,

paragraphs [0021] and [0026]. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. Id. at [0040], [0043], FIGS. 6 and 7. The method comprises configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document (702) and (704). Id. at [0040], [0041]. As configured, the updating process replaces a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license (708) and (600). Id. at [0044].

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Appellants appeal the rejections of claims 1-4, 5, 6-9, 10, 11-14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Appellants further appeal the rejections of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by SealedMedia, "Software Developer Kit," 2002 (SealedMedia).

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Claims 1-4, 5, 6-9, 10, and 11-14 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being definite and particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that Appellants regard as the invention.

B. Claims 1-27 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unanticipated by the SealedMedia reference.

A. CLAIMS 1-4, 5, 6-9, 10, AND 11-14 ARE DEFINITE

At pages 3-4 of the May 11, 2007 final Office action (hereinafter "final Office action"), the Examiner argued that the recited limitation "identifying one or more rights management

protections associated with content of the electronic document" of claim 1 is overly broad and indefinite. Appellants respectfully disagree. When read in light of the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art can readily understand the language of the claim. For example, Appellants direct the attention of the Board to paragraphs [0007], [0036] and [0037] of the present application (emphasis added):

> [0007] Additionally the present invention provides a method for dynamically applying a rights management policy to a message by allowing an administrator to **associate** certain rights management policies with certain attributes of the message. In one embodiment the administrator may associate certain right[s] management policies based on **such attributes as the content of the message**, the sending and receiving parties, and the date of the message.

> 0036] Alternative embodiments contemplated by the present invention also provide for methods for dynamically applying a rights management policy to a message by allowing an administrator to associate certain rights management policies with certain attributes of the message. In such an embodiment the administrator may associate certain right management policies based on such attributes of the message as the content, the sending and receiving parties, and the date of the message.

> [0037] A further method of the present invention provides a method for dynamically applying a rights management policy to a message by allowing an administrator to associate certain rights management policies with certain environmental attributes. For example, the administrator may associate certain right management policies based on such environmental attributes as the recipient's location, the time of day, the level of network traffic, whether the recipient is on-line or off-line, and certain software and / or hardware configuration on the recipient's computing device.

For example, paragraph [0038] of the specification illustrates the shortcomings of the prior art. In the example, when a rights management protection for a message 202 expires, the message 202 is empty when opened by a message recipient. However, under its covers, the content that is under the rights management protection is still there; it is replaced in the message body 500 with a notification to the recipient that the content has expired. See also FIG. 5 and paragraph [0038].

On the other hand, as also illustrated in paragraph [0039] of the specification, leaving the expired content still in tact with the message 202 is unsatisfactory when a skilled hacker could uncover the expired content from the message 202. Also, in another situation where documents

are supposed to be removed after a period (e.g., a law firm may require that all e-mail about a specific case is to be deleted after 2 years), the illustrated example in paragraph [0038] and Figure 5 can potentially make expired content accessible and retrievable by the rights management protection system.

Advantageously, paragraph [0040] provides an example of embodiments of the invention that overcome the shortfall of the prior art:

> [0040] With reference to Figures 6 and 7 a method for automatic updating of a rights management protected message 202 is illustrated. The method assures that **any expired rights management protected message 202 or a rights management protected attachment to a message is deleted or updated as it passes through a message transfer agent 212**. Beginning with step 700, the message 202 arrives in the message store 214. Next, in step 702, the message 202 is scanned for rights management protected messages and/or attachments. This may be accomplished by recognizing the content-class or the Mail Application Programming Interface (MAPI) property.

Therefore, with the paragraphs above and the paragraph [0040], one skilled in the art could easily understand the relationship between the rights management protections and the attributes of the message, and that the attributes of the message could be the content of the message, such as message 202, the sending and receiving parties, and the date of the message.

According to the Federal Circuit, the claim need only "reasonably apprise those skilled in the art both of the utilization and scope of the invention, and if the language is as precise as the subject matter permits, the courts can demand no more." Shatterproof Glass Corp. v. Libbey-Owens Ford Co., 758 F.2d 613, 225 USPQ 634 (Fed. Cir. 1985); cert. dismissed, 474 U.S. 976 (1985). In this instance, the discussions of the various attributes (e.g., the message attributes in paragraph [0036] and the environmental attributes in paragraph [0037]) clearly provide the proper scope of the invention. Furthermore, the discussions in paragraphs [0038-39] also enable those skilled in the art to comprehend the subject matter of the improvement and advancement of the invention. The ensuing paragraph [0040] further provides more detail discussions of the embodiments of the invention along with introducing the relevant figures (e.g., Figures 6 and 7).

Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and also clearly set forth the limitations.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Similarly, claims 5, 6, 10, and 11 recite similar limitation "identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document" as claim 1. Hence, for at least the reasons above, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 5, 6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn. Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6 and claims 12-24 depend from claim 11. For at least the reasons above, Appellants also respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 7-9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

B. CLAIMS 1-27 ARE UNANTICIPATED UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) BECAUSE THE SEALEDMEDIA REFERENCE FAILS TO TEACH EACH AND EVERY ELEMENT OF REJECTED CLAIMS

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The computerized method comprises:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme;

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; and

permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1. In particular, the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose or even suggest at least the feature of "**replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified**" **if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections**.

As an overview, the SealedMedia reference discloses a system for sealing content sets and for unsealing the content sets. With respect to sealing, the SealedMedia reference specifically teaches "[a] publisher contains a number of content sets. A content set represents **a set of content files or buffers that can be licensed. A content set is subdivided into one or more categories, each of which can be licensed individually. When content is sealed, it is sealed with a specific content set code and category code and is said to belong to that category**" SealedMedia reference, page 6, paragraph 6 (emphasis added). Once the content set is sealed, the publisher can next configure license templates for that content set. See Id. at page 11, paragraph 3. The license templates specify, among other things, "**[u]p to two time clauses that determine when the license will be valid (for a particular content file)**." Id. at paragraph 8 (emphasis added). The license templates also have a "license code" to uniquely identify the content set and this code "cannot be changed once it has been persisted." Id. at paragraph 4. In sum, a valid license enables a user to unseal the content set.

The SealedMedia reference further provides "time-based licensing options" to define the lifetime and validity of a license in terms of the current time. See Id. at page 12. Once the user receives the sealed content set, the user is required to use a valid license to unseal the sealed content set. The SealedMedia reference teaches 2 types of licenses; a roaming license and a non-roaming license. A non-roaming license is sent from a license server to the Unsealer, "where it persists for as long as it remains valid and is cached locally." Id. at page 15, paragraph 10. On the other hand, a roaming license is requested from the license server when it is **checked out** and the same license cannot be re-requested until it has been **checked in**. Id. In the event that a sealed content is accessed where no valid license is available, "**the Unsealer displays a status page describing why the content cannot be rendered, with a link to the Default URL. It is**

also possible to instruct the Unsealer to render the Default URL within the browser directly, giving you a more close control over the user experience. Once a license has been obtained, the metadata is also used to determine ongoing license validity, e.g. license expiration may be relative to the publication time sealed in with the content." Id. at page 10, paragraph 9 (emphasis added).

Appellants respectfully submit the SealedMedia reference fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the invention. In fact, SealedMedia teaches away from aspects of the invention because the reference specifically discloses that when a sealed content is accessed where no valid license is available, "the Unsealer **displays a status page describing why the content cannot be rendered**." Id. (emphasis added). To the contrary, claim 1 recites a limitation "**if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified**." Nowhere does the SealedMedia reference disclose or suggest "**replacing** a portion of **the content** of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified." Aspects of the invention provide advantages over the prior art, including the SealedMedia reference, because embodiments of the invention replace a portion of the content when the content has exceeded the rights management protections. Under the traditional technology, such as the SealedMedia reference, if the sealed content is in the hands of a skilled hacker, the skilled hacker can potentially unseal the content without a valid license and gain access to the content since the content is unaffected when a valid license is not available.

Furthermore, contrary to the Office's assertion on page 6 of the Office action, pages 9 and 40 of the SealedMedia reference fail to teach aspects of the invention as claimed. Page 9 of the SealedMedia reference describes ways to configure content sets. Also, page 9 describes sealing a default URL in with the content and this default URL must therefore be valid in perpetuity. In fact, this perpetual default URL teaching is directly opposed to the language of the claim limitation because claim 1 recites "replacing a portion of the content… ." If SealedMedia specifically requires a "perpetual" valid URL in the sealed content, in order for providing a link to the URL when the Unsealer attempts to access a sealed content when a valid license is unavailable, it clearly implies that **the sealed content is still there**. Thus, in the context of

retrieving the default URL in the event that no valid license is available, Appellants respectfully submit that such teaching cannot anticipate "replacing a portion of the content" as set forth in claim 1.

Moreover, page 40 of the cited reference further distinguishes the prior art from the present invention of claim 1. At page 40, SealedMedia describes an example of a "Delayed action license." In the example, no discussion is made whatsoever regarding situations when a user attempts to unseal a sealed content using an expired "delayed action license." Page 40 of the SealedMedia reference teaches no more than what is already specified on page 10, that is, where no valid license is available, "**the Unsealer displays a status page describing why the content cannot be rendered, with a link to the Default URL**." Id. at page 10, paragraph 9 (emphasis added).

Therefore, for at least the reasons above, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference could not anticipate claim 1, and that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Hence, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Appellants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons above, the SealedMedia reference could not anticipate claims 2-4. In particular, because the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose or suggest the feature of "**if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified,**" Appellants respectfully submit claims 2-4 are also patentable over the SealedMedia reference. Hence, the rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The method comprises:

> accepting the electronic document;

> identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

> pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

> determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme;

> if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; and

> permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Again, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose at least the feature of "if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified." The SealedMedia reference specifically indicates that when a valid license is unavailable, "**the Unsealer displays a status page describing why the content cannot be rendered, with a link to the Default URL**. It is also possible to instruct the Unsealer to render the Default URL within the browser directly, giving you a more close control over the user experience." Id. at page 10, paragraph 9 (emphasis added). The SealedMedia reference merely displays a status page describing why the content cannot be rendered, with a link to the Default URL. Nowhere does the SealedMedia reference disclose or suggest that a portion of the content is "**replaced with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified**." There is no modification taking place according to the SealedMedia reference.

Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 5 is patentable over the SealedMedia reference, and that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 6

Claim 6 is directed to a computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The computerized method comprises:

> accepting the electronic document;

> identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

> pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

> determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

> if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license.

Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference also fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of "if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, **deleting the content** of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document **is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license**." Nowhere does the SealedMedia reference disclose or suggest "deleting the content of the electronic document… ." In fact, the SealedMedia reference teaches away from deleting the content because the SealedMedia reference requires that the sealed content includes a "default URL" that "**must be valid in perpetuity**." Id. at page 9, paragraph 10 (emphasis added). This is because the SealedMedia reference needs to read the default URL from the content in the event that a valid license is unavailable. Therefore, it strongly indicates

that the content cannot be deleted **because the default URL field is a metadata field that is sealed in with the content**. See Id. at page 10, paragraph 1 (emphasis added).

Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentable over the cited art. Hence, the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9

Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6, and for at least the reasons above, Appellants respectfully submit that claims 7-9 are also patentable over the SealedMedia reference. Hence, the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 10

Claim 10 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The method comprises:

      accepting the electronic document;

      identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

      pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

      determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

      if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license.

For at least the reasons above with respect to claim 6, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference could not possibly anticipate each and every limitation of claim 10, in particular the limitation of "if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration

of the rights management protections, **deleting the content** of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document **is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license**." Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 10 is patentable over the SealedMedia reference, and that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 11

Claim 11 is directed to a computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The computerized method comprises:

> accepting the electronic document;

> identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

> pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document, said use license granting access to the content of the electronic document by the user;

> determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded an expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

> if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose at least the feature of "**replacing** a portion of the content of the electronic document **with a refreshed copy** of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document **maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access**

the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license." As previously argued above, the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose or suggest the act of replacing a portion of the content. Similarly, the SealedMedia reference fails to teach or suggest replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with a **refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document.** Furthermore, the Office fails to provide any additional support from the SealedMedia reference for rejecting claim 11 other than indicating the same rejection applies to claim 1. See Office action, page 7. Appellants respectfully submit that claim 11 covers a different scope of the invention from that of claim 1. Embodiments of the invention covered by claim 11 provide advantages over existing technology, such as the SealedMedia reference, by providing a refreshed copy of the portion of the content such that in the event that the original content has been updated or otherwise changed since licensing. Hence, for at least the reasons above, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 11 cannot be sustained because the SealedMedia reference could not anticipate aspect of the invention as claimed in claim 11. Hence, the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 12-14

Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11 and, for at least the reasons above, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 12 to 14. Hence, the rejection of claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 15

Claim 15 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The method comprises:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the accepted electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme, said use license granting access to the content of the electronic document by the user;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, updating a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

For at least the reasons for claim 11 above, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose each and every element of claim 15, including **"updating a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy** of the portion of the content of the electronic document." Hence, the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 16

Claim 16 is directed to a computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections are defined by the persisted policy scheme. The computerized method comprises:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

For at least the reasons for claims 1 and 5 above, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 16. Hence, the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 17-18

Claims 17-18 depend from claim 16 and recite further limitations of claim 16 which is unanticipated by the SealedMedia reference. Hence, Appellants respectfully submit that claims 17-18 are patentable over the SealedMedia reference. Therefore, the rejection of claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 19

Claim 19 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections are defined by the persisted policy scheme. The method comprises:

> configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

For at least the reasons above for claims 1, 5, and 16 above, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 19 recites limitations that are not taught or suggested by the SealedMedia reference. Hence, the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is directed to a computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. The computerized method comprises:

> configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to delete the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document.

Because the SealedMedia reference teaches away from deleting the sealed content when a valid license is unavailable, Appellants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons for claims 6 and 10 above, claim 20 is patentable over the SealedMedia reference. Hence, the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 21-22

Claims 21-22 depend from claim 20, and for at least the reasons above, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 23

Claim 23 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. The method comprises:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to delete the content of the electronic document data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document.

For at least the reasons above for claims 6, 10, and 20 above, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 24

Claim 24 is directed to a computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. The computerized method comprises:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

For at least the reasons above for claims 11 and 15, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference could not anticipate each and every element of claim 24. Hence, the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 25-26

Claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 24 and, for at least the reasons above, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 27

Claim 27 is directed to computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme. The electronic document has one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, and the rights management protections define an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme. The method comprises:

> configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

For at least the reasons above for claims 11, 15, and 24 above, Appellants respectfully submit that the SealedMedia reference teaches away from "**to replace a portion** of the content of the electronic document with **a refreshed copy** of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license." Hence, the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

VIII. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

For the reasons stated above, Appellants respectfully request that the Office's rejections be reversed and that claims 1-27 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

/TAN-CHI YUAN/

Tan-Chi Yuan, Limited Recognition No. L0113
SENNIGER POWERS, LLP
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

RMB/ATY/eaw

IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claim 1 (previously presented): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme;

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; and

permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme;

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; and

permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and being associated with the content of the electronic document, said use license granting access to the content of the electronic document by the user;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded an expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the accepted electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme, said use license granting access to the content of the electronic document by the user;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, updating a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to delete the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the

electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to delete the content of the electronic document data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the

portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

X.   EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

XI.   RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.